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ANNUAL REPORT

On the Health of the
Borough of Newport,
Isle of Wight,
for the Year 1923.

BY

STANLEY FOSTER, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., Ed.,
Medical Officer of Health,

AND

ALFRED F. HART, Cert. Royal San. Inst.,
Certd. Meat and Food Inspector,
Borough Sanitary Inspector.

PRESENTED TO THE CORPORATION
THROUGH THEIR COMMITTEE MARCH, 1924.

ISLE OF WIGHT:

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BOROUGH OF NEWPORT.

SANITARY COMMITTEE.

THE MAYOR (MR. COUNCILLOR G. F. QUINTON).

MR. COUNCILLOR DEACON (*Chairman*).

MRS. ,, CHANDLER.

MR. ,, BLAKE.

,, ,, COLLINS.

,, ,, HORAN.

,, ,, LONDON.

,, ,, MEW.

,, ,, PECK.

,, ,, RUSSELL.

,, ,, SIMMONDS.

,, ALDERMAN STEEL.

,, COUNCILLOR WADHAM.

,, ,, WRAY.

Medical Officer of Health :

STANLEY FOSTER, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., ED.

Sanitary Inspector :

ALFRED F. HART.



NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

MARCH, 1923.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADY, AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the twelfth year on the Health of the Borough of Newport.

According to instructions as again issued by the Ministry of Health for Reports for 1923, the details which do not vary from year to year have been omitted, namely, natural, social, and general conditions.

I am again pleased to state that the Health of the Borough still maintains as good a standard as possible, the death rate being 11.7.

There is an increase in the number of births over last year, also an increase for the year of births over deaths, being 98 as compared with 69 last year.

We have had very little notifiable Infectious Diseases during the whole year, there being only 9 cases of Scarlet Fever and 1 of Enteric Fever.

There has been a prevalence of Chicken-Pox during the latter part of the year, and so it was advisable that the disease should be made notifiable on account of the presence of Small-Pox in other parts of the country. This was done for a period of six months in the first instance, and further extended for another period of six months.

In the last three months of the year 27 cases were notified.

In the case of Scarlet Fever the first case of the year was a discharge from a hospital on the mainland, which had to be sent to our own Hospital for a short time.

The remaining 8 cases were treated at the Isolation Hospital, and the case of Enteric Fever was treated at Ryde County Hospital.

There has been no death from any Infectious Disease.

There is, I am sorry to say, an increase of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 18 cases being notified as against 13 last year ; also one case affecting the knee and one case affecting the hand. This increase may be due to the scrupulous care of Dr. Fairley, the County Medical Officer, who has undoubtedly got into touch with all the known available cases.

I am pleased to be able to state that the Manholes and parts of the Sewers have been cleansed, which is a necessary measure and is now done regularly.

We have had to use our Mortuary on a few occasions, and I must again remark it is a great asset to the town.

As regards Infant Mortality, this shows a slight percentage, 0.72.

As you are aware, we have a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre in the town, which is held weekly on Wednesday afternoons at the Corn Exchange, in the Market Square. This is working splendidly. A Doctor and the District Nurses are regularly in attendance, and are only too willing to give all necessary advice and guidance to mothers.

I am pleased to inform you that the attendance at the Centre has greatly improved, showing the appreciation of the mothers of the benefit received.

The Clinic, which is held at the Nodhill Schools and controlled by the Education Committee, is doing great and good work for the Children, the School Medical Officer sparing no effort in the interest of the children.

As Public Vaccinator, I am sorry to have to record a falling off in the number of children vaccinated.

In the first case this is partly due to the ease with which parents can obtain Conscientious Objection Certificates,

and, secondly, mothers wishing to avoid a slight discomfort that naturally arises for a few days.

In the whole of my 25 years' experience I have never seen any bad results owing to vaccination, and I consider it a public duty of all parents to have their children vaccinated for the child's sake primarily and as a safeguard and protection to the community.

I wish to record the services of the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Hart, who has been in office in the Borough nearly four years. He has always worked in a painstaking and capable manner, and the latter part of the year he has spent a considerable time with regard to Housing Inspection; also he has kept a critical eye on all Meat and Foodstuffs, which in some cases no doubt has been a preventive of illness.

I again have pleasure in recording my grateful appreciation of the courtesy and consideration that have always been shown me by the Members of the Sanitary Committee.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Lady, and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

S. FOSTER,
Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF NEWPORT, I.W.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, FOR THE YEAR 1923.

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

Population and Vital Statistics.—The Census for 1923 was 11,180. During the year the number of deaths occurring in the Borough was 127. This is 28 less than last year. The following deaths which occurred in Institutions outside the Borough must be added to this, viz. :—

Forest House 8, Asylum 6, London 2, County Hospital 5, Hermitage Sanatorium 1, Sandown 1, Southampton 1, Hove 1, Godshill 1, a total of 27, against 32 last year.

The total number of births for the year is 227, making an excess of 98 births over deaths.

The net deaths of Civilians in the year amounted to 129—63 males, 66 females. The population for a death rate, 11,180, being the figure supplied by the Registrar-General, a death rate for Newport of 11.7 coincides with that of England and Wales, 11.6, the Newport death rate being considerably less than last year, which was 14.1.

There were 227 births in the year—114 males, 113 females, 111 boys and 111 girls being legitimate, 5 boys and 4 girls being illegitimate.

This gives a birth rate on a population of 11,180, the figure as supplied by the Registrar-General, of 20.7 per 1000, comparing favourably with the birth rate for England and Wales, which is 19.7 per 1000.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply.—Newport is supplied with a system of constant pressure of water. The supply originates from wells and adits at Idlecombe and gravitates to the Waterworks at Carisbrooke, being pumped thence to reservoirs at Alvington, from which it is distributed through cast-iron pipes to various parts of the town.

It is pure and wholesome, and of exceedingly good quality, as shown by the latest analysis hereto appended :

The Clinical Research Association, Limited,
Watergate House,
York Buildings,
Adelphi,
London, W.C.

5th June, 1923.

To the Medical Officer of Health, Borough of Newport, I.W.

The sample of water collected on the 5-6-23, and received here on the 6-6-23, has been examined, and I have been instructed to forward the following report thereon :—

RESULTS.

	(1) Chemical.	Parts per 100,000.	Grains per gallon.
Total Solids (dried at 120°C)	...	29.40	20.58
Combined Chlorine	...	3.40	2.38
Equivalent to Na Cl	...	5.60	3.93
Nitric Nitrogen	...	0.46	0.32
Nitrous Nitrogen	...	Nil	Nil
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	Nil	Nil
Albumenoid Nitrogen	...	0.0011	0.0008
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C		0.015	0.010
Lead or Copper	...	Nil	Nil
Temporary Hardness (equivalent to CaCO ₃)	...	17.9	12.5
Permanent Hardness	...	3.5	2.5
Total Hardness	...	21.4	15.0

(2) Bacterial (Cultural and Microscopical).

Average number of Organisms producing Visible Colonies on Gelatine Plates, incubated at 20-22°C. for 3 days					18 per c.c.
...	...	...	...	...	
Average Number of Organisms producing Visible Colonies on Agar Plates, incubated at 37.5°C. for 2 days					5 per c.c.
...	...	...	...	...	
B. Coli	...	...	...	...	not found in 100 c.c.
Streptococci	...	...	...	...	not found in 30 c.c.
B. Enteritidis Sporogenes	...	...	...	...	not found in 100 c.c.

Remarks.—The results show this water to be of excellent quality.

(Signed) W. J. CURRY,
Secretary.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Rivers and Streams.—The river-bed adjacent to the Quay and its upper reaches are kept in a fairly clean condition and some thousands of tons of mud have been removed during the year, and the Quay walls have been periodically cleansed. The river wall is still proceeding and a great amount of land has been reclaimed for the extension of the Quay, thus confining the river to its proper channel.

Drainage and Sewerage.—2019 feet of 4in. or 6in. glazed stoneware pipe drain has been laid in place of old defective drains.

The whole of the drainage system of the Corporation Houses has worked in a satisfactory manner. No complaints have been received as to stoppages, &c.

The whole of the Sewage gravitates to the works at the Town Quay, where it is chemically treated, the sludge being extracted and pressed and sold for manure, the effluent passing into the river.

The whole Sewerage system is automatically flushed by cisterns at high levels, and all the modern sewers are ventilated by upcast shafts, no complaints having been received as to the Sewers during the year.

Closet Accommodation.—The whole of the accommodation in the Borough is on the Water Carriage System. A considerable number of the above are hand flushed, but these are gradually being supplied with flushing cisterns, a very necessary arrangement if the closets are to be kept in proper sanitary order.

Scavenging.—Formerly this work was carried out by contract, the refuse being carted outside the Borough, and deposited on farms and ploughed into the land. The Corporation now carry out this work, employing their own labour, the refuse being taken to the tip at Little London, behind the new River Wall.

There are only a small number of fixed ashpits in the Borough, the majority of the premises using buckets and boxes ; in fact, anything that will accommodate refuse. I again venture to suggest that in the interests of the health of the population of the Borough owners of property should be requested to provide proper impervious vessels with closely fitting covers, so as to prevent the matter from the open buckets, boxes, &c., blowing about the streets, also to prevent animals overhauling and scattering the matter about the highway. The owners, of course, will not supply these vessels voluntarily, and this necessitates the Corporation making Bye-Laws for their provision.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.—

Number of Inspections during the Year	...	...	1476
Number of Statutory Notices Served	...	...	10

Number of Informal Notices Served	...	...	194
Number of Nuisances Found	...	...	194
Number of Nuisances Abated	...	...	194

For further details of this work see Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Premises and Occupations which can be Controlled by Bye-Laws or Regulations.—Markets : The Cattle Market is still held weekly in St. James's Square and continues in a flourishing condition, and is a valuable asset to the trade of the town. All is done that is possible to reduce any attendant nuisance to a minimum, namely, it is thoroughly cleansed and disinfected and the manure and garbage removed immediately, the Market Place being left in as wholesome a manner as possible.

The Market has not been closed for any outbreak of Foot-and-Mouth Disease during the year.

Common Lodging-Houses.—There is only one Common Lodging-House registered in the Borough ; this has been regularly inspected and found to be conducted in good order.

Piggeries and Stables.—These have been frequently visited, and the periodical removal of manure and keeping of the premises in sanitary order has been on the whole well observed.

Mortuary.—The Mortuary during the year has proved to be a great asset to the Medical men of the Borough, having been in use for a post-mortem examination in several instances.

Public Schools.—The Public Schools are five in number, viz. : 3 Elementary, under the control of the Borough Education Authority ; 1 Higher Grade School, under the County Education Authority ; the other, the Grammar School.

The buildings are commodious, light, airy, and the sanitary accommodation is ample and the fittings up to date.

The Private Schools are few in number, and call for no special comment.

Notices *re* exclusion of contacts after Infectious Disease are sent to all Schools, and lists are received from the Head-Masters and Head-Mistresses of each school as to the number of children not attending school owing to illness, and the nature of same.

During the year Scarlet Fever was very slight. Seven cases were admitted to the Isolation Hospital, the most stringent disinfecting having been carried out in each case.

I am pleased to record the co-operation of the Schools Medical Officer in all matters relating to Public Health Administration in the Schools.

FOOD.

Milk Supply.—All Dairies, Cow-sheds, and Milk Shops have been inspected and found to be kept in good order and sanitary condition.

Slaughterhouses.—These have the attention and are under the more immediate supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. Some have been in existence a great number of years, and special attention is paid to the structural state of the floors and walls, so as to secure their being impervious and means of ventilation provided. Mr. Hart informs me that the drainage is kept in good order, the lime-washing and general cleanliness well looked after, and the water supply is pure and ample.

Particulars of the carcases, &c., examined and destroyed or so utilised as to prevent them from being used for Human Consumption are given later, under the heading Diseased and Unsound Food Destroyed.

Bakehouses.—These are under the personal supervision of the Medical Officer of Health, and the regulations as to lime-washing and cleanliness are well observed. There are

no underground bakehouses in the Borough, all being on the ground floor. There is little or no difficulty experienced in providing light and ventilation, and each bakehouse is provided with a separate water supply. The total number in use at the close of the year was 17, and, with but one or two exceptions, all are retail and combine the bread and confectionery branches.

TABLE V.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1923.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.								North Ward.	South Ward.	Total Cases Removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.									
		Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 & up- wards.			
Small Pox											
Cholera (C) Plague (P)											
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)											
Erysipelas	4						4		2	2	
Scarlet Fever	7			6	1				6	1	7
Typhus											
Enteric Fever	1				1					1	1
Relapsing Fever (R), Continued Fever (C)											
Puerperal Fever ...											
Cerebro spinal Meningitis											
Polio myelitis											
Ophthalmia Neonatorum											
Chicken Pox	27		7	19		1			15	12	
Encephalitis Lethargica											
Malaria											
Pneumonia	2		1				1		2		
Dysentery											
Trench Fever											
Acute Polio encephalitis											
Measles											
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	18			1	2	10	4	1	10	8	
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2		1			1			1	1	
TOTAL	61		9	26	4	12	9	1	36	25	8

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following table shows the number of cases of Infectious Disease notified during 1923, and the tabulated ages at which they occurred. It also includes the Tuberculosis Notifications.

Small-pox.—There were no cases reported in the Borough during the year. Several contacts were visited, however, notification of which was received from the Medical Officer of Southampton.

Diphtheria.—There was no case notified, as against one of last year.

Typhoid.—There were no cases reported in the Borough during the year.

Scarlet Fever.—There were 9 cases notified, as against 19 of last year.

Influenza.—This is not now a notifiable disease.

Chicken-pox.—This is now notifiable for a period of six months—a second period.

Encephalitis Lethargica.—There have been no cases reported in the Borough during the last two years.

Acute Pneumonia (Primary and Influenzal), Malaria, Dysentery, and Trench Fever.—These Diseases were made notifiable in 1919, no cases being notified in the Borough during the year.

Tuberculosis.—This disease was made notifiable during 1912, and 20 cases have been notified, against 16 last year. Of these 18 were cases of Tuberculosis of the Lungs; the remaining 2 cases attacked other parts of the body to the exclusion of the lungs.

Visits were paid to the homes of those notified under the Regulations, and Leaflets of Instructions and Spitting Bottles were provided where necessary, notes being made

as to family and personal history, and we now have knowledge of all diagnosed cases of Tuberculosis in the District. These precautions go a long way to lessen the infection of this complaint. Disinfection was also performed after death or removal in a good many instances.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

This work is carried out by the County Council at the Corn Exchange. This is in the centre of the Borough, and admirable accommodation is provided for Mothers, Doctor, and Nurses, every advice being obtainable for the welfare of the children, and is open on Wednesday afternoons from 2.30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT.

Hospital Accommodation.—All cases receive immediate attention and are removed without delay. Patients and their friends speak broadly of the great courtesy and careful attention they receive at the hands of the resident and visiting staff. The Hospital has proved sufficient and adequate in every way.

Isolation Hospital, Fairlee, for Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and Typhoid patients, under the management of the Isle of Wight Joint Hospital Board.

All specimens for Clinical and Bacteriological examination are sent to the Clinical Research Association, London.

Specimens examined for Enteric, 1.

Samples of water, 1.

Samples of Salts, 1.

Specimens examined for Diphtheria, 2.

ADMINISTRATION OF LOCAL ACTS OR GENERAL
ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT.

The following Acts Amendment Act, 1890. Parts 2,
3, and 5.

Infectious Disease (Preventive) Act, 1890.

Private Street Works Act, 1892.

Appointment of Overseers and Assistant Overseers.

Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1907.

Part II.—Sections 25, 26, and 33.

Part III.—Sections 34 to 38, 45 to 47, and 51.

Part IV.—

Part VII.—Section 86.

The Baths and Wash-houses Act, 1846-1899.

TABLE I.
VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1922 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Net Deaths Belonging to the District.			
		Un-corrected Number.	Net.		Num-ber.	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Num-ber.	Rate.					Num-ber.	Rate per 1000 Net Births.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1918	§	204	204	16·4	139	12·5	—	33	11	53·9	172	15·5
1919		217	217	18·6	119	10·3	—	35	14	64·5	154	13·3
1920	¶	309	309	26·75	141	12·25	—	27	17	72·7	168	14·5
1921	*	256	260	23·27	132	12	—	28	18	70·3	132	12
1922	†	224	224	20·4	155	14·1	—	32	18	70·3	187	17
1923	‡	220	227	20·6	129	11·7	—	27	8	40·4	156	14·1

Total population at all ages ...	...	11,180	} Estimated Population, 1923.
Number of inhabited houses ...	...	2,857	
Average number of persons per house	...	4	
Area of District in acres (land and inland water)	...	504 acres.	

§ For birth rate, 12,425; for death rate, 11,090.	* For birth rate, 11,030; for death rate, 11,030.
¶ 11,070;	‡ 11,090;
¶¶ 11,510;	” ”

TABLE II.

Causes of Death.					Males.	Females.
ALL CAUSES (Civilians only).					63	66
1	Enteric fever	...	...	...	—	—
2	Small pox	...	...	...	—	—
3	Measles	...	...	...	—	—
4	Scarlet fever	...	...	...	—	—
5	Whooping cough	...	...	...	1	—
6	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—
7	Influenza	...	...	...	1	—
8	Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	—	—
9	Meningococcal meningitis	...	...	...	—	—
10	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	8	4
11	Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	—	—
12	Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	8	13
13	Rheumatic fever	...	...	...	—	—
14	Diabetes	...	...	...	—	2
15	Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	...	...	...	4	6
16	Heart disease	...	...	...	9	7
17	Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	3	1
18	Bronchitis	...	...	...	3	7
19	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	1	2
20	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	2	1
21	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	1	—
22	Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	1	1
23	Appendicitis and typhlitis	...	...	...	—	—
24	Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	—	—
25	Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	2	3
26	Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	—	—
27	Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	...	...	...	—	1
28	Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	...	...	...	2	2
29	Suicide	...	...	...	2	—
30	Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	1	—
31	Other defined diseases	...	...	...	14	15
32	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	—	1
Special Causes (included above)						
	Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—
	Poliaencephalitis	...	...	...	—	—
Deaths of Infants { Total					4	4
under 1 year { Illegitimate					—	—
TOTAL BIRTHS					113	107
	Legitimate	...	...	...	106	102
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	7	5

POPULATION 11,180.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Health Department,
Borough Offices,
38 Quay Street,
Newport, I.W.

*To His Worship the Mayor, and to the Aldermen and
Councillors of the Borough of Newport, I.W.*

LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I herewith submit to you a Report of the work done by myself in connection with the abatement and suppression of nuisances during the year 1923.

The total number of Inspections made during the year was 1476. In addition, on 194 of the premises visited nuisances to the number of 194 were discovered. The work carried out includes Housing Inspection, Inspection of Slaughterhouses, Bakehouses, Cow-sheds, Workplaces, Home-workers' Premises, Common Lodging-houses, Schools, Stables, Disinfection of Rooms and Clothing after Infectious Disease.

Wherever insanitary conditions were found to exist such action as was necessary for their removal or abatement was immediately taken, communication with the owner or agent being made upon the discovery of any sanitary defects, and particulars supplied of the works necessary to satisfactorily remedy the same.

During the year 117 complaints were received alleging the existence of a nuisance, several of the communications being anonymous. All were duly investigated, and where found necessary steps were taken for the abatement of the nuisance.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS MADE DURING THE YEAR.

Number of Houses Inspected under the Housing				
	Town Planning Act, &c.	...	...	147
„	Re-Inspections	...	...	897
„	Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	634
„	Visits to Slaughterhouses	...	...	693
„	„ Food Shops	...	...	115
„	„ Cow-sheds and Milk Shops			29
„	„ Bakehouses	...	...	51
„	„ Factories	...	...	75
„	„ Workshops	...	...	76
„	„ Home-workers' Premises	...		13
„	„ Schools	...	...	40
„	„ Stables and Piggeries		...	57
„	„ Common Lodging-Houses	...		13
„	„ <i>re</i> Cases of Infectious Disease			
	and other Sickness	...		34
„	„ Cinema Theatres	...	...	24
„	„ Marine Stores...	...	...	36
Total				2905

NOTICES SERVED.

194 Notices were served to abate the nuisances found, these being of a preliminary nature or in the form of a letter, which resulted in the nuisance being satisfactorily abated.

DETAILS OF OPERATIONS CARRIED OUT FOR THE ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES.

Drains.

New Drains (length in feet)	...	...	...	2019
No. of Stoneware Gullies Fixed	...	...		27
„ Ventilating Shafts	...	...	...	5
„ Inspection Chambers	...	...	...	11

No. of	Fresh Air Inlets...	...	...	...	15
,,	Fresh Air Inlets Repaired	...	...	...	19
,,	Intercepting Traps	...	...	...	11
,,	New Connections to Sewer	...	...	...	9
,,	Old Brick and Masonry Drains Removed	...	...	...	5
,,	Drains Unstopped	...	...	...	37
,,	Smoke Tests applied to Drains and Soil Pipes	...	...	...	53
,,	Water Tests applied to Drain and Soil Pipes	...	...	...	47

WATER CLOSETS.

New Water Closets Built	...	...	...	2
,, Pans in W.C.'s	...	...	...	9
,, Traps in W.C.'s	...	...	...	9
Water Closets Repaired	...	...	...	17
Water Closets Unstopped	...	...	...	19
Flushing Cisterns Fixed to Water Closets	...	...	...	12
Flushing Cisterns Repaired	...	...	...	11

SOIL AND WASTE PIPES.

New Soil Pipes Fixed	...	...	...	4
Waste Pipes Trapped and Disconnected	...	...	...	3

MISCELLANEOUS.

New Sinks Provided	...	...	...	9
,, Sink Wastes	...	...	...	9
,, Lavatory Basins	...	...	...	2
House Roofs Repaired	...	...	...	51
Accumulations of Refuse and Manure Removed	...	...	...	4
Yards Paved or Repaved	...	...	...	3
Houses Cleansed	...	...	...	13
Rain-water Spouts Disconnected from Sewer	...	...	...	5
New Urinals Built	...	...	...	2
Baths Fitted	...	...	...	1
Water Laid on to Urinals	...	...	...	1
Wash-houses Repaired	...	...	...	7

Slaughterhouses Repaired	...	...	...	3
Animals so kept	...	...	...	2
Slop Sink	...	...	...	0
Sink Wastes Repaired	...	...	...	4
New Pedestal Pans	...	...	...	9
Bakehouses Cleansed and limewashed (twice yearly)	...	...	...	17
Slaughterhouses Cleansed and Limewashed (four times yearly)	...	...	...	12
Cow-sheds and Dairies Cleansed and Lime-washed (twice yearly)	...	...	...	20

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION.

Fifty-nine visits were made in connection with the cases of Infectious Disease and other Sickness which occurred in the Borough during the year, in order to make the necessary inquiries and to carry out the work of Disinfection. Forty-six rooms in various houses were fumigated by means of Formalin and Carbolic Acid, and in few instances with Sulphur. In addition, there were 7 rooms fumigated for the destruction of Vermin. The Fumigation was carried out as follows :—

Small-pox	...	...	...	0
Diphtheria	...	...	...	0
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	17
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	13
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	0
Cancer	...	...	...	7
Influenza	...	...	...	2
Puerperal	...	...	...	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	0
Vermin	...	...	...	7
Other Sickness	...	...	...	7
Total				55

When cases are removed to the Isolation Hospital all bedding and other articles liable to retain infection are removed and steam-disinfected at the Hospital. Disinfectants are supplied free when necessary during infectious illness.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE AND MEAT INSPECTIONS.

There are 13 Slaughterhouses at present in the Borough. Nine are licensed annually and the remaining four are registered, for which no annual licence is required.

693 visits have been made to slaughterhouses. This work takes up a considerable amount of time, and for the inspection to be of any real value visits must be made at the actual time of slaughtering, before the carcasses and organs are removed from the slaughterhouses. Therefore, I again mention the great necessity of a Public Abattoir, where all animals could be inspected before slaughter and observations taken.

With regard to the diseases affecting the animals slaughtered, tuberculosis has predominated, 20 carcasses being wholly affected and 28 parts of carcasses partly affected. As the majority of these were dairy cows and had been milked practically up to the time of slaughter, it is obvious that a Veterinary Inspection of all dairy cows should be enforced. The diseases affecting the organs and necessitating the destruction, in addition to carcasses, have been local tuberculosis, actinomyces, echinococcus, distoma, hepatitis, strongylus, tumours, cancer, peritonitis, dropsy, necrosis, abscess, pneumonia, Johne's disease, and jaundice. In 5 instances animals were bled after natural death.

A large portion of unfit foodstuffs, if not diseased, is used for the feeding of pigs.

The Bye-Laws relating to the periodical limewashing of the slaughterhouse walls, the removal of garbage, offal, skins, &c., have on the whole been well observed.

DRESSED CARCASSES EXAMINED.

Pigs ...	...	...	...	...	3551
Sheep	...	...	...	...	275
Beasts	...	...	...	...	223
Calves	...	...	...	...	420
Total					4469

DISEASED OR UNSOUND FOOD DESTROYED.

				Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Carcasses of Beef, weight	...	...		15	1	18	
Carcasses of Sheep	„	...	...	3	0	2	
Carcasses of Pigs	„	...	...	1	10	0	14
Pig Meat	„	...	...	2	0	0	
Other Organs	„	...	...	4	0	0	
Tinned Goods	„	...	...				21
Ham	„	...	...	—	—	—	—
Veal	„	...	...			2	4
Total				2	15	1	3

DAIRIES, COW-SHEDS, AND MILK SHOPS.

Under the Dairies, Cow-sheds, and Milk Shops Orders, Cowkeepers and Purveyors of Milk are required to be registered by the Town Council.

At present there are upon the register 19 Dairies and 10 Cow-sheds. These have been inspected, a total of 57 visits having been made. The Regulations with regard to Lime-washing and Cleansing have been carried out satisfactorily.

In addition, all Milk Purveyors in the District have been registered under the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There is only one Common Lodging-House in the Borough. This is situated in South Street. Twelve visits have been made during the year, and the premises found to be well conducted.

CINEMA THEATRES.

There are two Cinema Theatres in the Borough. The Ministry of Health issued orders for their periodical inspection during the year 1922. This has been done, 29 visits having been made during the year—a slight increase over last year on account of Chicken-pox and Measles epidemic.

HOUSE DRAINAGE.

A considerable amount of time is devoted to the detection of faulty drains and the supervising their repair or renewal. A good deal of this work is usually the result of house inspections. A number, however, are the outcome of complaints as to nuisances existing at houses, the investigation of which frequently leads to the re-laying of house drains.

Altogether I have supervised the laying of 2019 feet of stoneware pipe drains, also the fixing of 11 intercepting traps, 27 stoneware gully traps, and 11 inspection chambers. In connection with this work 53 smoke tests and 47 water tests were applied to the drains.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER, 1923.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (Aeres) 504.

Population (1922), 11,090.

Number of Inhabited Houses (1922), 2853.

Number of Families, or Separate Occupiers (1922), 3073.

Rateable Value, £50,329.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £186 10s. 3d.

HOUSING.

Number of New Houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	4
(b) As part of a Municipal Scheme	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

1. Unfit Dwelling Houses—

Inspection :

(1) Total Number of Dwelling Houses Inspected for Housing Defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	147
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses which were Inspected and Recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	...	...	...	147
(3) Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a State so Dangerous or Injurious to Health as to be Unfit for Human Habitation	...	...	...	...	...	1
(4) Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding Sub-heading) found not to be in all respects Reasonably Fit for Human Habitation	...	...	...	...	...	1

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices—

Number of Defective Dwelling Houses rendered Fit in consequence of Informal Action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	...	...	...	129
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3. Action under Statutory Powers—

A. Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	147

(2) Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered Fit—			
(a) By Owners	...	...	147
(b) By Local Authorities in Default of Owners	...	...	Nil
(3) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders became Operative in pursuance of Declarations by Owners of Intentions to Close			
	...	...	1
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts—			
(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Notices were Served requiring Defects to be Remedied			
	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses in which Defects were Remedied—			
(a) By Owners	...	...	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in Default of Owners	...	...	Nil
C. Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing and Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909—			
(1) Number of Representations made with a view to making of Closing Orders			
	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made			
	...	...	Nil
(3) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were Determined, the Dwelling Houses having been rendered Fit			
			Nil
(4) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made			
	...	...	Nil

(5) Number of Dwelling Houses Demolished in Pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	Nil
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GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DEFECTS FOUND.

- (1) Defective Drainage.
- (2) Lack of Proper W.C. Accommodation.
- (3) Damp and Dark Rooms.
- (4) Dirty Walls and Ceilings, Defective Floors, Walls, Roofs, Flushing Cisterns, &c.
- (5) Insufficient Ventilation.
- (6) Defective Windows, Sash Lines, &c.

CONCLUSION.

In addition to the matters already set out, a considerable amount of time is of necessity taken up in keeping various registers and records, in the clerical work, in interviewing owners or agents of property, and other administrative work which cannot well be tabulated.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. F. HART,

Borough Sanitary Inspector.



